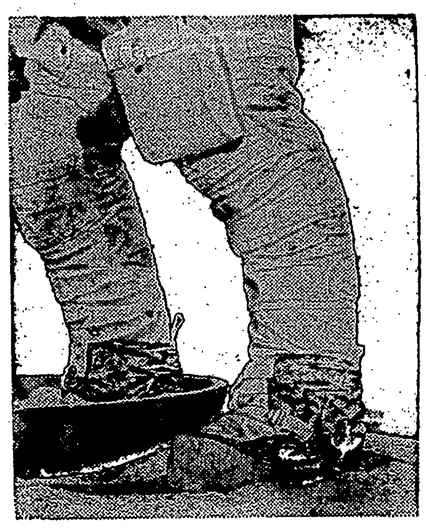
APOLLO 11

MAN AND THE MOON



THREE men, two of them military and one a civilian and all honed by the sum of mankind's technical knowledge, are traveling today through the blackness of space to the moon, a quarter of a million miles away.

Once they get there, the duty of one will be to stay aloft in the circling mother ship, Columbia, and the duty of the two others will be to descend in a fragile space ferry called Eagle and climb down its ladder to the moon's silent surface.

If they succeed, their footprints on the lunar soil will be man's first on another celestial body. If they fail, others almost surely will try again simply because it seems possible. Throughout history man has always attempted to achieve and extend the possible.

"Are you fearful?" someone asked the astronauts. The answer, given by one for all three, was that fear was not unknown to them, but that everything conceivable had been done to erase the causes of fear—the unexpected, the inability to cope—and that, therefore, there was no fear of setting forth.

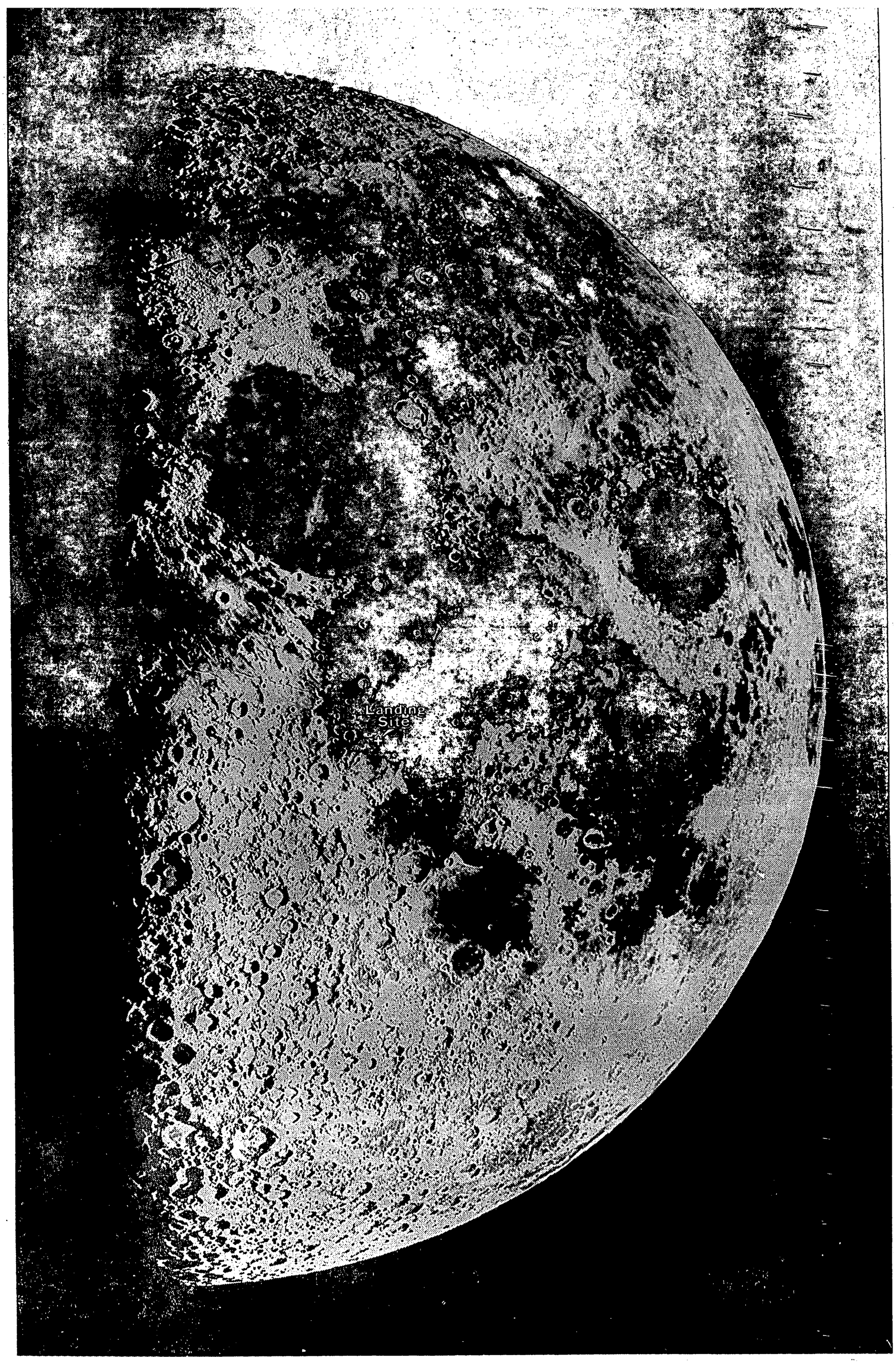
To achieve such serenity had taken not only the astronauts' own strength of spirit, but the accumulated knowledge of science, the accumulated skills of technology, the accumulated work of many explorers of the mind and the universe. The adventure is individual, yet for man collective.

Even if the mission is entirely successful, it will raise more questions than it will answer immediately.

What does a landing on the moon mean for man on earth? Will it be a major turning point in the development of his creativity and evolution or simply the extension of his destructiveness deeper into the solar system? Will it be recorded as the beginning of a great new era or only as an expensive diversion from earthly reality?

It may be decades, perhaps centuries, before the full answers will be known. But uncertain as are the consequences of the voyage of Apollo 11, there is knowledge and insight to be gained from an examination of how man reached this point.

This special supplement deals with some of the processes—of science, of engineering, of politics, of industry—that led to this moment in history and with what may follow. Besides members of The New York Times staff, the contributors include other writers, scientists, technologists, officials and former officials, among them some of the men most directly responsible for bringing about this great adventure.



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